

Maine Master Community Composter Course

Presented by Mark A. King

MEDEP Division of Materials Management

In conjunction with Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRRA)

and the Food Recovery Council (FRC)

Background

Over the last couple years, Mainers have become increasingly aware of the myriads of problems associated with wasted food and the ultimate impacts of disposal. In fact, in response to increased public concern regarding reducing food losses to landfilling, the 132nd Maine Legislature passed LD 1065, “An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste”. LD 1065 aims to is slated to become effective in 2030, when the Department will have adequate personnel to take on the job of implementation, training and tracking business waste volumes.

In the interim, Department staff will continue to implement the Solid Waste Diversion Grant Program, along with conducting food rescue and recovery education outreach efforts statewide.





What's New?

A new program we are offering is the “**Maine Master Community Composter Program**”. This effort, based loosely on the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program, is designed to train participants in the “art and science” of community composting, focusing on setting-up and managing a successful backyard composting program.

Following course completion, successful participants will receive a certificate designating them as a “Master Backyard Composter”; along with the educational tools necessary to help them hold their own backyard compost trainings within their communities and surrounding areas.

The hope is that certificate recipients will conduct several training sessions to help expand compost education efforts while also setting up a strong network of backyard composters across Maine.

What does the course include:

1. The course will consist of four virtual classes delivered as webinars:
 - Biology of compost, **January 29, 10-11am**
 - Compost feedstocks and recipes, **February 26, 10-11am**
 - Compost methods and systems, **March 26, 10-11am**
 - Building and managing your compost pile. **April TBD**
2. One additional video featuring field demonstration to view actual community compost systems, practice pile monitoring and trouble-shooting skills and to reinforce knowledge gained from the webinars.
3. Successful completion of an optional certification exam with a minimum score of 70%, will result in the ability to obtain a Master Community Composter certificate, issued by the Maine Resource Recovery Association.

Partnerships-Roles and Responsibilities

- **Course content**—all course materials will be created and delivered by staff from the Division of Materials Management.
- **Webinar set up and management**—Staff from the Maine Resource Recovery Association will manage webinar tech details.
- **Advertising and promotion**—Both MRRA staff and staff from the Department's Division of Materials Management will work collaboratively on advertising and promotion of webinars and field days.
- **Issuance of Certificate of Technical Ability**—Will be handled by MRRA staff.
- **Cost** – The webinars are free to attend, participants that wish to be certified can do so through MRRA as follows:
 - **Students \$25.00, Municipal or public resident \$100, Discount \$25 each for multiples of 3 or more.**
- **If you miss any of the zoom presentations, they will be available afterwards so you can study for the 50-question certification test. Take the test when you are ready.**

Sign up using the link below

<https://forms.gle/8i4T3VpqHwdXmf7S6>

OR

Contact Ash VanNorwick or Victor Horton

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